(b) if so, reasons for not utilising the amount; and

(c) details of the measures taken by Government to modernise Indian Army, Navy and Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A number of proposals for procurement of weapon systems and equipment for modernisation of Armed Forces are at various stages of the procurement process, like technical evaluation/trails and finalisation of prices and contractual terms, etc. The funds catered for such proposals can only be utilsed on completion of these stages and on making payments as per contractual terms.

Modernisation of the Armed Forces is a continuous process and new procurement structures have been established to speed up the procurement process for Modernisation.

Indo-French strategic dialogue

113. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ninth round of Indo-French Strategic Dialogue was held in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreements reached?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. The ninth round of Indo-French Strategic Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 6th January, 2003.

(b) No agreements were signed during this Strategic Dialogue.

Punching of driving licences of traffic violators

114. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Licenses of traffic violators to be punched from January 30th, appearing in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated the 9th January, 2003;

(b) if so, what are the complete details of the scheme to be implemented from 30th January, 2003;

(c) whether Government are aware that Delhi Police is challenging citizens arbitrarily on petty offences like jumping of roads, etc.; and

(d) if so, whether Government would punch the licences without giving ample opportunity to the drivers and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have made a proposal to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 in its application to Delhi by, *inter alia*, insertion of a new clause to provide for punching of driving licence of a person who has been convicted and punished for an offence under any of the provision of the said act. That Government has, however, been advised to examine whether, *inter alia*, the insertion of the said clause might lead to arbitrariness and whether it was necessary at all to provide for punching of the driving licence as in the context of Smart Card based driving licence in future the relevant entries can be incorporated in the Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) of the Smart Card based driving licence through hand held readers.

It is imperative to rigorously enforce traffic regulations in order to ensure smooth and safe flow of traffic.

Deterioration of law and order situation in NCT of Delhi

115. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that law and order situation in the National Capital Territory of Delhi has deteriorated during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details of cases of rape, murder, extortion, dacoity etc. reported in various police stations during the above period;

(c) whether it is also a fact that cases of extortion and murder have increased in Malviya Nagar area of South Delhi during the last one year; and